

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: PUERTO RICAN
INDEPENDENCE SEMINAR

1. SUMMARY. CARLOS RIVERA, MEMBER OF OBSERVER DELEGATION OF PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, GAVE STINGING SPEECH CLAIMING AMERICAN ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF PUERTO RICO AND USG THREATS AGAINST COMMITTEE OF 24 MEMBERS, TO SMALL AUDIENCE OF ACADEMICS, SOME SKEPTICAL, AT UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA AUGUST 18. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF SERIES OF SEMINARS ORGANIZED BY SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, CARLOS RIVERA, MEMBER OF PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION ATTENDING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER, ADDRESSED ABOUT 35 ACADEMICIANS AT UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA ON SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE AUGUST 18. AUDIENCE WAS DIVIDED WITH PERHAPS HALF SYMPATHETIC AND HALF SKEPTICAL.

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3. SPEECH TRACED HISTORY OF PUERTO RICO BUT GLOSSED

OVER ELECTORAL HISTORY OF RECENT YEARS WITH ALLEGATION THAT "INDEPENDENCE IS PREREQUISITE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION." EXPANDING ON THAT LATTER IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT RESULTS OF UN-SUPERVISED PLEBISCITE, RIVERA SAID THAT A FAIR ELECTION COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND US BASES REMOVED.

4. SRI LANKA AUDIENCE WAS PROFOUNDLY UNAFFECTED BY CLAIMS OF PUERTO RICAN POVERTY. RIVERA'S ESTIMATE OF 40PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT WAS RECEIVED SKEPTICALLY AND A QUESTIONER'S STATEMENT THAT PER CAPITA INCOME WAS \$2000 DREW RIVERA'S RESPONSE THAT PUERTO RICO MUST BE JUDGED BY U.S. NO LATIN AMERICAN STANDARDS. RIVERA SAID PROFITS WERE "SUCKED OUT" BY US FIRMS WHO HAD 14 BILLION DOLLARS OF INVESTMENTS IN PUERTO RICO.

5. RIVERA WAS MOST VEHEMENT ON SUBJECT OF ALLEGED USG THREATS AGAINST COUNTRIES ON UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE WHICH VOTED WRONG WAY. HE QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM A LETTER DATED AUGUST 19, (1975) FROM US AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN TANZANIAN NEWSPAPER. LETTER SAID HOSTILE VOTE IN UN COMMITTEE WOULD PLACE TANZANIA IN SAME CATEGORY AS THREE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH US HAD NO RELATIONS AND TWO OTHERS WHICH WERE "IMPLACABLY HOSTILE" TO US.
REED

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